

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 00164 120905Z
ACTION EA-12

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FOR IPS/PF - MCMENAMIN

E.O. 11652: N/A

1. HERE IS COVERAGE REQUESTED YOUR 052111Z JANUARY 78:
2. A HIGH STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL HAS REAFFIRMED THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN EAST ASIA.
3. ROBERT B. OAKLEY, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS, GIVING THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT THE OPENING OF A NARCOTICS COORDINATORS CONFERENCE IN SINGAPORE JANUARY 11, SAID:
4. "OUR INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS PROGRAM IN EAST ASIA IS BASED SQUARELY UPON CERTAIN FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF U.S. POLICY TOWARD ASIA. THESE ARE:

-- THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE ITS KEY ROLE IN CONTRIBUTING TO PEACE AND STABILITY IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC;
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PAGE 02 SINGAP 00164 120905Z

-- THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE UNITED STATES SEEKS NORMAL AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE COUNTRIES IN THE AREA ON THE BASIS OF RECIPROCITY AND MUTUAL RESPECT; AND

-- THE PRINCIPLE THAT WE WILL USE OUR INFLUENCE

TO IMPROVE THE HUMAN CONDITION OF THE PEOPLES
OF ASIA."

5. IN REVIEWING WHAT HE CALLED THE "PRESENT LEVELS OF
PEACE AND STABILITY IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC," MR. OAKLEY
CREDITED ASEAN WITH HAVING "SERVED AS A CATALYST FOR
INCREASINGLY CLOSE COOPERATION AMONG ITS MEMBERS OVER THE
PAST TWO YEARS." HE SAID THIS IS A "NOTABLE ACCOMPLISH-
MENT" AND THAT "THE U.S. IS COMMITTED TO DO WHAT IT CAN
TO ASSIST."

6. MOST OF MR. OAKLEY'S ADDRESS DEALT WITH THE PROBLEM
OF CONTROLLING THE DRUG TRAFFIC AND NARCOTICS ABUSE IN
EAST ASIA. HE WAS SPEAKING TO ABOUT 50 U.S. GOVERNMENT
OFFICERS FROM AMERICAN EMBASSIES IN THE REGION AND FROM
WASHINGTON ATTENDING A THREE-DAY CONFERENCE ON NARCOTICS
CONTROL.

7. MR. OAKLEY STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION. HE POINTED TO THE "FRIENDLY AND MUTUALLY
BENEFICIAL COOPERATION" THE U.S. ENJOYS WITH MANY
COUNTRIES OF EAST ASIA, WITH PARTICULAR MENTION OF
THAILAND AND BURMA. EXPRESSING HOPE THAT THE GOVERN-
MENT OF LAOS WILL TAKE STEPS TO COMBAT TRADE IN ILLICIT
NARCOTICS, MR. OAKLEY SAID THAT "THE UNITED STATES IS
WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH ANY GOVERNMENT IN ANTI-
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PAGE 03 SINGAP 00164 120905Z

NARCOTICS ACTIVITIES, WHETHER BILATERALLY OR THROUGH
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS."

8. "PERHAPS THE MOST EFFECTIVE LONG-RANGE METHOD OF
ATTACKING THE ILLEGAL NARCOTICS TRADE," HE SAID, "IS
TO CUT OFF THE SOURCE AT THE ROOTS." ONE WAY OF DOING
THIS IS THROUGH INCOME AND CROP SUBSTITUTION. IN BOTH
THAILAND AND BURMA, CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAMS HAVE
BEGUN WITH FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT FROM U.S.
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, THE SCANDANAVIAN COUNTRIES, AND
THE U.N. FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL.

9. MR. OAKLEY SAID HE ANTICIPATES THAT A SOUND SUBSTI-
TUTION PROGRAM, COUPLED WITH STRONG ENFORCEMENT, WILL
MAKE OPIUM GROWING INCREASINGLY LESS ATTRACTIVE TO
FARMERS AND OPIUM GROWERS IN THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE.
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